

Press Release

## **Memories - A Tribute To RD Burman By Usha Uthup & Munna Raj Launched At The 2<sup>nd</sup> Kolkata Literature Festival**

### **- Ramesh Sippy & Zeenat Aman Speaks About Their Association With RD Burman And Launches The Album Released By Asha Audio -**

Kolkata, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2015: **Memories**, Usha Uthup's tribute to her mentor, RD Burman, composed by Munna Raj, was released at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kolkata Literature Festival (KLF) held at the 39<sup>th</sup> International Kolkata Book Fair by noted filmmaker, Mr Ramesh Sippy & screen diva of yesteryears, Ms Zeenat Aman. The audio CD comprising of 8 new songs has been released by Asha Audio Company.

**Memories** is a collection of eight Bengali modern songs by Usha Uthup which is a rare musical tribute to RD Burman. **Memories** is also a long cherished dream come true for Usha Uthup who was actually identified by RD Burman at a Park Street pub in Kolkata. The association grew stronger and the listeners got a treasure trove from the duo in films like Bombay To Goa, Hare Rama Hare Krishna, Shalimar & Shaan, which are chartbusters even today. Incidentally, with **Memories**, Usha Uthup recorded for a Bengali album after a gap of almost 15 years.

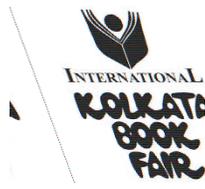
"It has been a deep journey with Pancham. I really have some wonderful memories with him. Never ever I came across such a musical genius. The sound he created and the tune he composed are still loved and are immensely popular. While recording for **Memories** it was an actual Down Memory Lane experience for me with the same retro sound and feel of the 70's and 80's. I have been wanting to such an album since ages but for some reason or the others things didn't move beyond a point. I must thank Munna Raj & Asha Audio for offering me this album, which I have cherished recording from the chore of my heart", said Ms Usha Uthup, while sharing many of his musical memories with RD Burman at KLF.

"Getting Usha Di to sing for **Memories** was like half the battle won. That she continues to sound the same even after 40 years proves her versatility. We grew up with RD Burman's music, which continues to be like our staple food. The creative ferment that took us over during 70's & 80's has stayed on to witness the efflorescence in this album. Musicians who are legends in their own right from RD Burman's original team have extensively recorded for this album. It is a lyrical and musical tribute from us for our LoRD", said music director duo, Munna Raj, who has earlier composed various Bengali & Hindi songs for Amit Kumar, Abhijeet & Kumar Sanu amongst others.

Lyricist, Utpal has conceptualized the album and written 7 songs of **Memories** which are, Ghum Neme Ashe, Monica, Katha Diye Tumi, Chura Liya, Dilruba Dil, Jaye Phire & Aabar Jani Hobe Dekha and Sreeraj Mitra has written the lyrics of the remaining song, Surer Raja. Usha Uthup has herself contributed with English, Goanese & Swahili lyrics for the album, which have given the songs a different dimension altogether.

"I have worked extensively with RD Burman for 5 consecutive movies, starting from my second movie, Seeta Aur Geeta, followed by Sholay, Shaan, Shakti & Sagar. The songs and the background scores of these movies are still heard, hummed and talked about even after 4 decades. His contributions to these films were impeccable. The songs indeed left an indelible mark. The stamp of a genius. It feels great to be here at KLF and share my memories about the man who is still the most popular music director around. I wish the **Memories** team all the best for their effort and endeavour", said veteran film director, Mr Ramesh Sippy.

"RD Burman composed for the first five movies of my career, which are, Hulchul, Hungama, Hare Rama Hare Krishna, Heera Panna & Yaadon Ki Baraat. In all, 27 films of mine, including my sole Bengali film,



Tinmurti, have some awesome compositions of Pancham Da, which contributed a lot to my films' success. I am indeed happy that KLF has decided to host an event in his remembrance and truly appreciate Publisher & Book Sellers Guild's gesture of inviting me here today. I also wish **Memories** a grand success", said actress, **Ms Zeenat Aman**.

**"Memories** is an album blended with Pancham Da's musical ethos & pathos, recreated wonderfully by Munna Raj. Usha Di has sung the songs beautifully, which is bound to become chartbusters", said **Ms Mahua Lahiri**, Director, Asha Audio Company.

"It gives me great pleasure to host these great talents from the field of performing arts, sharing their memories of the great musician, RD Burman. With his film and non-film songs, RD Burman still continues to mesmerize us with his versatility. I am sure that his music will remain ever popular for generations to come", said **Mr Tridib K Chatterjee**, Hony General Secretary, Publishers & Booksellers Guild.

**Memories** has been recorded at Sangeet Studio. Renowned musicians from RD Burman's team including **Shyam Raj & Bosco Monsorate** have played for this album. Music arrangement, mastering and sound designing is by **Som Chakraborty** and assisted by **Partha Mukherjee**. The voice recording has been done at Studio Vibrations, by **Gautam Chakraborty** in Kolkata.

**Memories**, priced at **Rs 125/-** is available across all music stores & digital platforms. **Roshan Publicity** has supported the project.

KLF is an initiative of the Publishers & Booksellers Guild, organiser of International Kolkata Book Fair that debuted in January, 2015. In KLF 2014, literary figures like Prof Richard Gordon, Prof Sugata Basu, Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay, Ranjan Bandyopadhyay, Aparna Sen, Bibhas Chakraborty, Devdutt Pattanaik, Vikram Sampath, Dr Mohan Agashe, Amit Chaudhuri, Prof Homi Bhaba, Kunal Basu, Rohit Pombra, Surojit Chattopadhyay (Bhumi), Rupam Islam have participated.

The 39<sup>th</sup> International Kolkata Book Fair, one of the grandest annual cultural festivals of Bengalis, which began on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 will continue till 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2015. The fair is open every day from 12 noon to 8 pm.

#### **About Asha Audio Company**

Asha Audio Company laid its foundation in May 1995 with the blessings of the legendry singer Asha Bhosle. In this journey of over 17 years, the company has been able to build up a catalogue of 400 titles. The audio major took a very bold step to establish contemporary music and launched albums of Mohiner Ghoraguli & Paraspathar in 1995 / 1996, which was followed by Chandrabindoo, Miles, Cactus, Fossils & Lakkhichhara. A major section of the company's repertoire has been designed with Rabindrasangeet, which has a rich blend of artistes like Hemanta Mukhopahhyay, Debabrata Biswas, Subinoy Roy, Ajoy Chakraborty, Rezwana Chowdhury, Indrani Sen, Srikanta Acharya, Lopamudra Mitra, Jayati Chakraborty and the new age Bollywood playback singers like Shaan, Kavita Krishnamurti, Alka Yagnik, Babul Supriyo and Sadhana Sargam. Modern song segment has albums of Asha Bhosle, Amit Kumar, Kumar Sanu, Raghav Chatterjee, Manomay Bhattacharya, Rupankar & Subhamita amongst others. Asha Audio's repertoire of Recitation includes albums of Soumitra Chattopadhyay, Bratati Bandopadhyay, Partho Ghosh, Gouri Ghosh & Pradip Ghosh. The company also has a unique collection of "Audio book" of "Sunday Suspense" in 3 volumes.

#### **For further information please contact:**

Saurav Mukherjee / Amrita Ukil  
Sagittarius Communications  
Ph: 8697719310 / 8697719306